

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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Keep Hands Clean with Good Hygiene

San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services announced it will partner with the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation (NRAEF) and participate in the 2005 National Food Safety Education Month this September to showcase its commitment to food safety education and training. This year's theme, "Keep Hands Clean with Good Hygiene" focuses on the important procedures necessary for proper hand washing.

This annual food safety campaign strives to build awareness of the restaurant and food service industry's commitment to serving safe food, heighten awareness about the importance of food safety education, and encourage additional food safety training for all food industry employees.

"We're thrilled that San Bernardino County is taking part in National Food Safety Education Month," said John Farquharson FMP, president of the NRAEF's International Food Safety Council. "Our local governments are a critical component to training our industry on the importance of food safety."

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According to County code, all food service workers in San Bernardino County must attend a 2-hour training class given through local community colleges and successfully pass a test in order to receive a food handler card, which enables them to legally work in the food industry. Residents needing to obtain a food handler card should call the community college in their area to get a class schedule or visit <http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/dehs/first/firstclasslocations.htm>. San Bernardino County's food worker program is the longest-running one in California.

Americans are aware of food safety now more than ever before and are especially interested in the restaurant grading system. Since October 1, 2004, there have been over one million hits on the county restaurant grading web site. This site <http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/dehs/info/publicinfo.htm> is updated every day at 11:00 a.m. and shows the current restaurant grade as well as the previous grade.

Residents wishing to view or print out the publication on hand washing may visit <http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/dehs/food/foodpublic.htm>. Questions about food handler classes may be directed to Environmental Health Services at (909) 884-4056.

MARK H. UFFER
County Administrative Officer

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